

ORIGINAL

#7 / "Link"

CHARGE TO THE WORKSHOP

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GIVEN TO THE SURGEON GENERAL'S WORKSHOP ON BREASTFEEDING

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(GREETINGS TO HOSTS, GUESTS, FRIENDS, ETC.)

IN 1978 THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SET FOR ITSELF A GOAL OF "HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000." THIS IS A TALL ORDER AND MANY OF THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH LIMITED RESOURCES WILL HAVE TROUBLE IN MEETING THAT GOAL. OTHER COUNTRIES, WITH THE HELP OF THE WESTERN WORLD, WILL SUCCEED IN AT LEAST IMPROVING "HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000" ONLY TO SEE THOSE GAINS SLIP AS SUPPORT IS SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN.

THE UNITED STATES IS A SIGNATORY TO "HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000," BUT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SET OURSELVES A SERIES OF OBJECTIVES TO BE REALIZED BY 1990. THESE ARE LARGELY CONTAINED IN A PUBLICATION CALLED HEALTHY PEOPLE, THE SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION. THIS VOLUME WAS SUPPLEMENTED LATER BY OBJECTIVES FOR THE NATION.

AMONG THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES FOR THE UNITED STATES BY THE YEAR 1990 IS THE TOPIC OF THIS WORKSHOP. THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO BREASTFEED THEIR BABIES AT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE SHOULD BE INCREASED TO 75 PERCENT, AND THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE STILL BREASTFEEDING AT SIX MONTHS OF AGE SHOULD BE INCREASED TO 35 PERCENT. IN 1978, WHEN THIS OBJECTIVE WAS CHOSEN, THE PROPORTION WAS 45 PERCENT AT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE AND 21 PERCENT AT SIX MONTHS OF AGE.

HISTORICALLY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN IDLE IN ITS PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS OF BREASTFEEDING. DURING 1946 AND 1947, DR. KATHERINE BAIN OF THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU DID THE FIRST NATIONWIDE SURVEY OF THE INCIDENCE OF BREASTFEEDING IN HOSPITALS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE REPORT WAS PUBLISHED IN PEDIATRICS IN SEPTEMBER 1948.

A SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN LACTATION WAS HELD AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN OCTOBER 1976 AND WAS CO-SPONSORED BY THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, THE MARCH OF DIMES, AND GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. THE PROCEEDINGS OF THAT SYMPOSIUM WERE WIDELY DISSEMINATED IN PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCLES.

IN 1978 AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON BREASTFEEDING, SUPPORTED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, WAS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

THEN IN 1983 A NATIONWIDE VIDEO TELECONFERENCE ON IMPROVING NUTRITION FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES WAS CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. BREASTFEEDING AND HUMAN LACTATION WAS ONE OF TWO MAJOR TOPICS PRESENTED DURING THIS THREE-HOUR PROGRAM VIEWED AT 125 SITES COAST-TO-COAST. THE PROGRAM PRESENTED AN UPDATE ON NEW RESEARCH FINDINGS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL APPLICATION. EDITED VIDEO TAPES ARE NOW BEING DISSEMINATED.

NOR IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IDLE IN CURRENT ACTIVITIES. BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION IS ONE OF THE THRUSTS OF THE HEALTHY MOTHERS/HEALTHY BABIES COALITION. A BREASTFEEDING KIT FOR PROFESSIONALS IS NOW BEING PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH SEVERAL PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

AMONG THE TOPICS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS' NATIONAL NATALITY SURVEY IS AN ONGOING SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING MECHANISM ON EDUCATIONAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH BREASTFEEDING.

LET'S GET BACK TO THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE NATION. THE CURRENT ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING BREASTFEEDING TO MEET THE ALREADY MENTIONED 1990 NATIONAL OBJECTIVE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- * ESTABLISHING AND PROMULGATING A NATIONAL POLICY ON HUMAN NUTRITION
- * OFFERING PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDERS
- * SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
- * CONDUCTING RESEARCH

- * IMPLEMENTING SERVICE DELIVERY
- * AND SPONSORING PUBLIC EDUCATION.

LET ME JUST HIT THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF THESE POINTS.

TO HELP IN THE FORMULATION OF ITS POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION, THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE USES THE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES ISSUE BY RECOGNIZED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS, THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON MATERNAL NUTRITION, LACTATION, AND INFANT NUTRITION ARE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH GUIDANCE MATERIALS AND TECHNICAL REFERENCES DEVELOPED IN CONCERT WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, RECOMMENDATIONS ON BREAST-FEEDING AND OTHER INFORMATION ON INFANT FEEDING ARE ADDRESSED IN THE PEDIATRIC NUTRITION HANDBOOK, PUBLISHED IN 1979 BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS WITH SUPPORT BY THE DIVISION OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH. AN EXAMPLE OF A MORE RECENTLY DEVELOPED TECHNICAL REFERENCE IS THE GUIDE TO BREASTFEEDING THE INFANT WITH P.K.U.

ANOTHER FEDERAL ROLE IS THE SUPPORT OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING. BREASTFEEDING IS INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM OF GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION AND IN THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CURRICULA FOR PHYSICIANS, NURSES, SOCIAL WORKERS, AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS. FOR EXAMPLE, OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, 200 PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITIONISTS HAVE RECEIVED TITLE V MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SUPPORT AND 107 NUTRITIONISTS HAVE RECEIVED NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRAINING LEADING TO THE MASTER'S DEGREE.

AS IN ALL THESE ENDEAVORS, RESEARCH AND STUDY FORM THE BASIS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE. THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH PLAY THE MAJOR FEDERAL ROLE IN BREASTFEEDING RESEARCH EFFORTS. A REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN THE CONSUMPTION OF HUMAN MILK AND THE SPECIAL FUNCTIONS OF ITS MANY COMPONENTS HAS BEEN STIMULATED BY THE NECESSITY TO DEVISE PROPER NUTRIENT THERAPY FOR PREMATURE, GROWTH-RETARDED, AND IMMUNOLOGICALLY COMPROMISED BABIES.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT HAS STIMULATED STUDIES OF THE IMMUNOLOGIC AND NUTRIENT COMPOSITION AS WELL AS PERHAPS UNDEFINED COMPONENTS AND POSSIBLE CONTAMINANTS OF COLOSTRUM AND HUMAN MILK OBTAINED FROM MOTHERS AT VARIOUS GESTATIONAL AGES.

IN ADDITION, IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKSHOPS HELD BY THE OFFICE OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BOTH IN 1975 AND 1976, THE N.I.C.H.D. IS SUPPORTING APPLIED STUDIES OF HUMAN MILK BANKING IN ORDER TO DEVELOP TECHNIQUES OF COLLECTING, STORING, PROCESSING, AND DISTRIBUTING HUMAN MILK AND COLOSTRUM FOR USE IN CLINICAL SITUATIONS.

CURRENTLY, TECHNIQUES ARE BEING DEVELOPED TO COMBAT VIRAL CONTAMINATION WITHOUT DESTROYING IMMUNOLOGICALLY ACTIVE CELLS OR DENATURING PROTEINS THAT POSSESS ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITIES. WE HOPE ONE OUTCOME OF SUCH RESEARCH WILL BE THE EVENTUAL ISOLATION OF SPECIAL IMMUNOLOGICAL AND NUTRIENT COMPONENTS OF HUMAN MILK WHICH COULD ASSIST IN THE CARE OF PREMATURE AND GROWTH-RETARDED BABIES. AS A MATTER OF FACT, A WORKSHOP WAS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 1982 ON HUMAN MILK BANKING IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FURTHER STIMULATION TO THIS EXPANDING RESEARCH. THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE IS STUDYING THE ROLE OF BREAST MILK AS A DEFENSE AGAINST ENTERIC INFECTIONS. THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES IS CONDUCTING A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF 900 CHILDREN IN NORTH CAROLINA TO SEE IF CHILDHOOD MORBIDITY IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO D.D.T. AND P.C.B.'s IN BREAST MILK.

IN RESPONSE TO THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF MARKETING OF BREAST MILK SUBSTITUTES, TWO TASK FORCES WERE ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH IN NOVEMBER 1981. A P.H.S. TASK FORCE ON THE ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE PROBLEMS OF INFANT FEEDING, BOTH IN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXTS, WAS CHAIRED BY DR. WILLIAM FOEGE, THEN THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL. ITS FINDINGS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE OCTOBER 1984 JOURNAL OF PEDIATRICS.

I CHAIRED THE OTHER TASK FORCE ON DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES AND THE FINDINGS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO A REPORT WHICH I MADE TO THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY LAST MONTH IN GENEVA.

I HAVE LISTED EDUCATION LAST, BUT IT IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON NUTRITION FOR USE IN COUNSELING PARENTS AND OTHER CARE-GIVERS OF CHILDREN IN COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY P.H.S.

FUNDS FROM M.C.H. ARE FREQUENTLY USED BY THE STATES TO DISSEMINATE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS. AN EXAMAPLE OF THIS IS BREASTFEEDING, A PUBLICATION DEVELOPED IN 1979 AIMED AT PARENTS-TO-BE AND NEW PARENTS.

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES SUCH AS U.S.D.A., VOLUNTARY GROUPS SUCH AS THE LA LECHE LEAGUE, AND PRACTITIONERS AS WELL AS PARENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE MATERIAL IN DRAFT FORM AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS. THUS, THE PUBLICATION IS AS PRACTICAL AND USEFUL AS POSSIBLE. TO DATE OVER 60,000 COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED NATION-WIDE.

WHY ARE WE HAVING THIS SURGEON GENERAL'S WORKSHOP ON BREASTFEEDING AND HUMAN LACTATION?

ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF BREASTFED INFANTS HAS GROWN IN RECENT YEARS, THE INCREASE HAS NOT BEEN AS GREAT IN THE HIGHEST-RISK GROUPS. THE NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO START TO BREASTFEED HAS INCREASED, BUT MANY OF THEM DO NOT CONTINUE BREASTFEEDING BEYOND THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF THEIR INFANT'S LIFE.

WE KNOW THAT BREASTFEEDING GIVES BABIES COMPLETE NUTRITION PLUS IMMUNOLOGIC BENEFITS TO LAUNCH THEM ON A HEALTHY LIFE. BREASTFEEDING ALSO PROVIDES ITS PARTICULAR BENEFITS AT A LOW COST. WE MUST, THEREFORE, IDENTIFY AND REDUCE THOSE BARRIERS WHICH KEEP WOMEN FROM BEGINNING OR CONTINUING TO BREASTFEED THEIR INFANTS.

IT IS NOW TIME TO CONSIDER WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

AND NOW LET ME EXPLAIN WHY WE ARE HERE IN ROCHESTER. THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY WAS SELECTED BECAUSE OF ITS ACTIVE AND UNIQUE EFFORTS IN THE SUPPORT OF BREASTFEEDING. ALONG WITH THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE SCHOOL OF NURSING, THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY HAS DEVELOPED A CLUSTER FOR THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL, AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN LACTATION.

DR. RUTH LAWRENCE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS AND OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY, WHO IS THE WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSON, IS A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY ON BREASTFEEDING AND IS THE AUTHOR OF THE PRIMARY TEXT ON THE SUBJECT, BREASTFEEDING: A GUIDE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, PUBLISHED BY MOSBY IN 1980.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER ALSO HAS A STRONG OBSTETRICS-GYNECOLOGY DEPARTMENT, WHOSE CHAIRMAN, DR. HENRY THIEDE, IS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THIS WORKSHOP. DR. THIEDE, IN HIS PRIOR POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF OB-GYN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE CREATION OF A CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFERY TRAINING PROGRAM.

WHAT WILL BE GOING ON HERE FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS?

THE LUNCHEON SPEAKER TODAY WILL HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF THE LAY VOLUNTEER IN THE MOTHER-TO-MOTHER PROGRAM OF THE LA LECHE LEAGUE. ON TUESDAY BOB BAZELL, HEALTH AND SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT FOR N.B.C., WILL DISCUSS THE USE OF MEDIA IN PROMOTING BREASTFEEDING.

SPEAKERS THIS MORNING WILL UPDATE US ON THE STATE OF ART AND THE STATE OF SCIENCE CONCERNING THE PHYSIOLOGY OF BREASTFEEDING, THE UNIQUE VALUES OF HUMAN MILK, AND CURRENT TRENDS AND CULTURAL FACTORS REGARDING BREASTFEEDING. THIS WILL PROVIDE THE BACKGROUND FOR THE DISCUSSIONS TO FOLLOW IN THE WORKSHOPS. MODELS OF SUCCESSFUL APPROACHES WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED THIS MORNING IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BECOME PART OF OUR KNOWLEDGE BASE.

THIS AFTERNOON AND CONTINUING THROUGH TUESDAY MORNING, PARTICIPANTS WILL CONVEENE IN 8 WORK-GROUPS TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUCH KEY ISSUES AS THESE:

- + THE DECISION TO BREASTFEED
- + SOCIO-CULTURAL INFLUENCES AND DETERMINANTS OF INFANT FEEDING PRACTICE
- + SUPPORT SERVICES NEEDED FOR INITIATION AND CONTINUATION OF BREASTFEEDING

- + ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN PROMOTING BREASTFEEDING
- + OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO BREASTFEEDING IN THE WORLD OF WORK
- + EDUCATING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT BREASTFEEDING
- + AND, RESEARCH NEEDS IN BREASTFEEDING AND HUMAN LACTATION.

MY CHARGE TO YOU THIS MORNING IS TO REPORT WHICH EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL...WHICH NEED BETTER APPLICATION...WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO KNOW...AND WHAT OF THE ABOVE WILL BETTER PROMOTE BREASTFEEDING AMONG HIGH-RISK GROUPS IN ORDER TO REALIZE GREATER BENEFITS?

I KNOW THAT YOU WILL DO THIS AND I KNOW YOU'LL DO IT WELL.

I WILL BE HERE TO RECEIVE YOUR REPORT TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

THANK YOU.

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